

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05515 181011Z  
ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 FS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 /058 W

-----014911 181046Z /20

O 180954Z MAY 78 ZFF6  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4632  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
HQUSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
HQ CINCSAC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE  
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
DET 2 306SW ZARAGOZA, IMMEDIATE  
16THAF TORREJON SP CV IMMEDIATE  
306 SW RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE  
406 TFTW ZARAGOZA, IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 05515

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OCLR, SP  
SUBJECT: U.S. KC-135 REFUELING FOR BELGIAN AIRLIFT TO  
ZAIRE

1. BELGIAN CHARGE INFORMS ME THAT HE HAS OBTAINED SPANISH  
GOVERNMENT PERMISSION, ON EMERGENCY BASIS, FOR OVERFLIGHT  
OF SPAIN BY BELGIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH WILL BE EN  
ROUTE TO ZAIRE TODAY, MAY 18. THESE ARE FIVE C-130  
HERCULES AIRCRAFT AND TWO 727 BOEING AIRCRAFT FLYING FROM  
BELGIUM. IN ADDITION, TWO C-130'S, WHICH ARE NOW IN MALI,  
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WILL BE GOING TO ZAIRE.

2. HE HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED BY HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE  
U.S. IS WILLING TO PROVIDE FROM RESOURCES IN THE FRG  
KC-135 REFUELING SUPPORT FOR THESE BELGIAN AIRCRAFT ON THE  
CONDITION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM CAN OBTAIN FROM  
THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN THE NECESSARY OVERFLIGHT

AUTHORITY. (THIS RAISES TECHNICAL QUESTION OF ABILITY OF KC-135'S TO REFUEL THESE BELGIAN AIRCRAFT. COULD THIS RATHER BE A QUESTION OF HAULING FUEL TO ZAIRE FOR GROUND REFUELING?)

3. THE INFORMATION HE HAS INDICATES THAT IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN THAT THESE REFUELING SERVICES WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THESE OR SUBSEQUENT FLIGHTS, AND HE HAS AT THIS POINT ONLY BEEN ASKED TO EXPLORE WHAT MAY BE ENCOUNTERED SHOULD HE BE INSTRUCTED TO RAISE THE REFUELING QUESTION WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

4. I HAVE INFORMED THE BELGIAN CHARGE THAT I AS YET HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS MATTER. I HAVE TOLD HIM IN THE MEANTIME, IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION, THAT, ALTHOUGH NORMALLY OVERFLIGHTS OF SPAIN BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT ARE HANDLED IN ROUTINE FASHION UNDER A BLANKET CLEARANCE PROVIDED IN THE AGREEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, THE SPANISH CERTAINLY WOULD EXPECT ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL ON AN OPERATION LIKE THIS, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS ON TANKER OPERATIONS IN SPAIN CONTAINED IN THE TREATY. I TOLD HIM I DID NOT THINK WE WOULD WISH, THEREFORE, TO CARRY OUT SUCH OPERATIONS WITHOUT ADVANCE COORDINATION WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AT THE POLICY LEVEL. I FURTHER SAID THAT I

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COULD SEE ADVANTAGES FOR ANY APPROACH ON THIS QUESTION BEING INITIATED BY BELGIUM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TOGETHER WITH GUIDANCE ON APPROACHING THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, IF THAT IS DESIRED. EATON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Type:** TE  
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